

THE PASSAGE FROM THE WORLD

but, though she holds converse with the true citizens, the soul neither can nor will rejoice in their joy, but only in the hunger which they have, and had while they were pilgrims and wanderers in this life.

" In this and in many other ways, which I cannot narrate, my life is being distilled and consumed in this sweet Spouse ; 1 in this fashion, and the glorious martyrs with their blood. I pray the Divine Goodness soon to let me behold the redemption of His people. When it is the hour of tierce, I rise up from Mass, and you would see a dead woman going to San Pietro ; and I enter anew to labour in the little bark of Holy Church. There I stay thus until nearly the hour of vespers ; and from that place I would fain never go, nor day nor night, until I see this people a little settled and established with their father. This body keeps without any food, even without a drop of water ; with such great and sweet bodily torments as I never endured at any time, so that my life hangs upon a thread. Now I know not what the Divine Goodness will please to do with me ; as far as I feel, I do not say that I perceive His will and intention with regard to me ; but, as to bodily sensation, it seems to me that I am to consume it at this time with a new martyrdom in the sweetness of my soul, that is, in Holy Church. Then He will, perhaps, make me rise again with Him ; He will put an end and bound both to my miseries and to my crucified desires ; or He will keep His wonted ways in circling round my body with His power. I have prayed, and am praying His infinite mercy to accomplish His will in me, and not to leave you or the others orphans, but ever to direct you along the way of the doctrine of truth, with true and most perfect light. I am certain that He will do it.

" Now I pray and urge you, father and son given me by that sweet Mother Mary, if you hear that God is turning the eyes of His mercy upon me, to begin your life anew ; and, like one dead to all feeling of sense, cast yourself into this little bark of Holy Church. And be always cautious in speaking with others. You will seldom be able to have an actual cell; but I would have you always dwell in the cell of the heart, and always bear it with you.

